



John C. Stennis
Carrier Strike Group
N6 Post Deployment Brief
27 July 2011 – 02 March 2012



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Voice over Secure Internet Protocol (VOSIP)

Observations

- Reliable, secure comms relied on for Strike Group, Warfare Commander, CO, TAO, LNO discussions
- Secure, easy to use, high quality, joint, quick, affordable ~\$250 (v. \$3k/STE)
- No keymat required, less admin/overhead
- Non-std install approval ISO C5F Ops
 - C5F 170547ZOCT11

Recommendations

- ☐ Fund call managers at fleet NOCs
- ☐ Establish as a program of record
- ☐ Expand to unsecure VoIP
 - ☐ Allows for dynamic bandwidth allocation for phones

Discussion

- Once installed and configured in C7F, VOSIP quickly became the comms path of choice for secure phone calls.
- Supported OPSEC
- Used extensively for Air Defense Exercises with the CAOC
- Relied on for Warfare Commander synchronization



Strike Group Commander's tool of choice. If he could spend one more dollar...



Full Motion Video (FMV)

Observations

- JCSSG Strait of Hormuz transits
 - 20 Sep 11 (inbound) CDLS
 - 8 Oct 11 (outbound) CDLS, Rover 4/5
 - 12 Nov 11 (inbound) MC2
 - 27 Dec 11 (outbound) CDLS, MC2

Recommendations

- ☐ Fund FMV as a Program of Record
- ☐ Standardize CPED, establish Navy wide CONOP, TTPs
- ☐ Develop video feed for both internal viewing and external (HHQ)
- ☐ Exercise use during FRTP

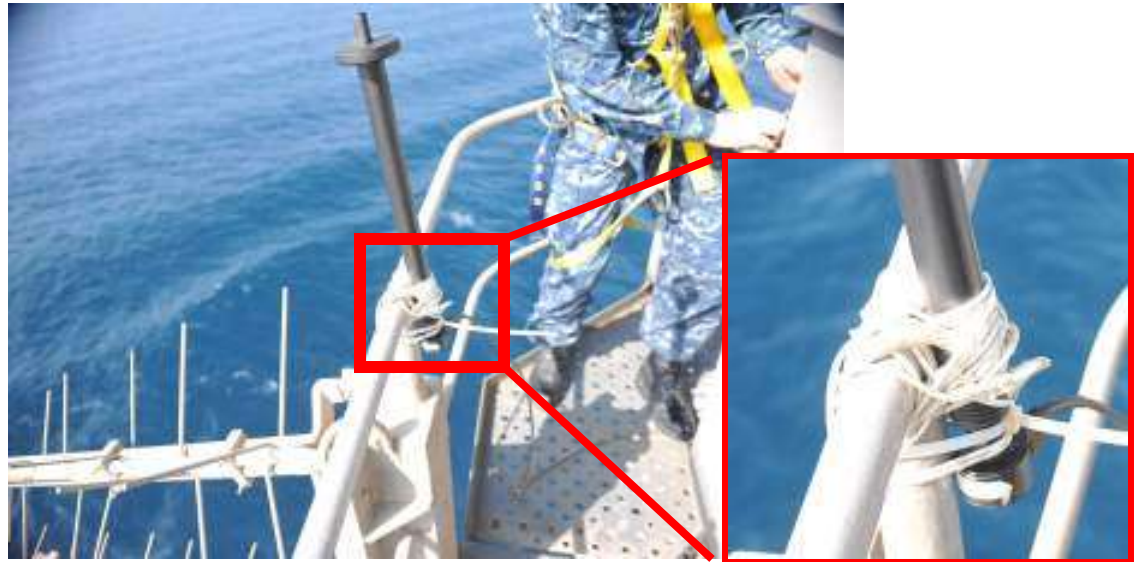
Discussion

- Critical for situational awareness:
 - Used to identify unknown contacts
 - Critical to identify and track Warships
 - Verify intent
 - Monitor counter-piracy events and relay to HHQ for public affairs
- Video streamed to warfare commander watch stations via SIPR
- Real-time streaming to NAVCENT limited





JCSSG MC2 Video Scout install



Ad-hoc installation not ideal. Need fully developed solution.



Global Broadcast System (GBS)

Observations

- Potential to be a great resource
 - Split IP, Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), UAV (Predator/Raptor), TURBULENT WAVE, Legacy web downloads, 3 TV Channel broadcast
- No formal IT technician or end user training
 - Very little knowledge at CSG/CVN
- Difficult to manage
 - Broadcast footprint, theater chops, different process for each fleet

Recommendations

- ☐ Establish CONOP
- ☐ Establish formal GBS training for users and technicians-like 'ISNS end to end training'
- ☐ Exercise use during FRTP
- ☐ Establish standardized fleet Global Mission Requests (GMR) and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP)
- ☐ Make legacy web downloads transparent to users
 - ☐ Seed web cache with downloads

Discussion

- Critical for imagery downloads
- Other than imagery, GBS added little value
- Shore support not available 24x7
- Legacy web downloads were incomplete and not useful
- Maintaining system is manpower intensive

Untapped Potential
Too unreliable to rely on



Link Redundancy for Reliability

Observations

- Systems are fragile
- Utilized every data path and piece of equipment to keep COP
 - RF/Sat Link 16, HF/UHF Link 11, JREAP-C
- Large AOR required extensive use of SAT J and JREAP-C

Discussion

- High number of CRUDES CASREPs
 - Avg fix 2.5 wks.
- C5F JNL problems
- Shutdown of Link 16 towers in Iraq forced HF Link 11 as long haul link
- Ships conducting similar missions had to use SAT J/HF 11/JREAP-C
- Joint community using JREAP-C almost exclusively

Recommendations

- Maintain redundancy on link systems
- JREAP-C is way of future operations, connectivity easier
- Expedite fielding of Next Generation Command and Control Processor (NCG2P)
- Establish forward deployed Maintenance Assistance Module (MAMs) with high fail cards and chassis
- Establish forward deployed tech support



LINK Frequencies

Observation

- ☐ The Joint Information Control Officer (JICO) requires the use of frequencies listed in the Numbered Fleet Commanders OPTASK Link.

Discussion

- ☐ While deployed, transiting Strike Groups utilized link frequencies promulgated in the numbered fleet's OPTASK link vice frequencies provided by the standing CSG communications plan provided by the numbered Fleet Commander.
- ☐ While in C5F, the NMCSO disapproved C5F OPTASK Link frequencies for CSG maritime operations.

Recommendation

- ☐ Coordination required between various joint and Navy/Marine Corps spectrum offices to ensure no frequency conflict exist and frequencies are authorized for use throughout the AOR.



IP reliance

Observations

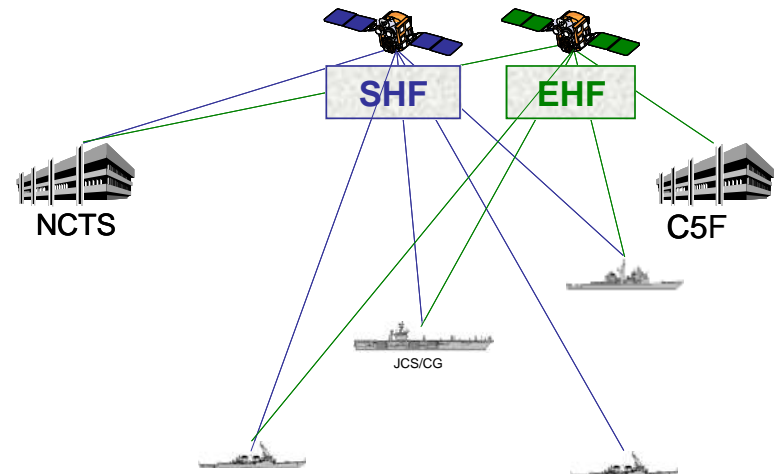
- All Strike Group functions are increasingly dependent on IP services
- Mission critical: time sensitive I&W feeds, command and control systems, NSAnet access, EP-3 and BAMS-D imagery, FMV, VTC, VOSIP, Logistic, Medical
- SHF cutovers can be difficult
- ADNS is single point of failure

Recommendations

- ☐ Redundancy required in satellites, frequencies and data paths
- ☐ Continue funding for SHF DSCS and CBSP
- ☐ Pursue larger allocation of bandwidth as an increasing number of war fighting systems are dependent on IP services
- ☐ Implement smart bandwidth usage
 - ☐ Authorized compression software
 - ☐ Acceleration
- ☐ LNO at shore station during cutovers

Discussion

- Redundancy is required to support war fighting
- Using SHF cross-patch, 8 Mbps DSCS carried NIPR services, routinely saturated
- Intelligence community migrated to reach back support, heavily dependent on IP services
- Unacceptable outages during SHF cutovers





C7F SATCOM Coverage GAP

Observations

- Transiting westbound from the Strait of Malacca, we experienced a UHF SATCOM coverage gap.
- Same gap in coverage experienced during eastbound transit

Discussion

- Impact:
 - No dedicated CSG DAMA package
 - No UHF DAMA voice communications with CTF 70
 - No dedicated GBS spot beam
 - Loss of LR SPRAC coverage

Recommendations

- ❑ Educate strike groups on expectations and coverage during transit. Two false planning assumptions for the last 3 CSGs:
 - ❑ C7F/CTF 70 knew about the gap in coverage
 - ❑ CSG DAMA package would transition to next UFO Satellite
 - ❑ Pursue solution to address coverage gap



We were not the first CSG to transit, but it seemed that way.



HYDRA

Observation

- ☐ HYDRA Radio use is restricted in all Gulf Co-operative Countries in order to avoid interference with trunked mobile radio systems.
- ☐ Similar restrictions exist in the 7th Fleet AOR for Japan port visits.

Recommendation

- ☐ Channelization plans for each ship must be provided to the Strike Group Staff N6 and N39 shops prior to deployment to avoid delays in approval to operate.
- ☐ Securing of topside antennas will alleviate interference issues while still meeting Force Protection requirements.

Discussion

- ☐ Ships must request approval from 5th Fleet N6 and NMCSO CENT Bahrain at least 96 hours prior to entering any port.
- ☐ Contact Numbers for each ship is required for an individual who can immediately secure transmissions if necessary.



RSN – USN PASSEX

Observation

- ☐ PASSEX conducted with the Republic of Singapore Navy and the John C. Stennis Strike Group from 30 Jan -02 Feb 12.
- ☐ Exercise was conducted using UHF LOS communications with HF as a backup. This required each ship to re-configure their communications suite.

Recommendation

- ☐ Warfare Commanders must provide input for communications guard requirements.
- ☐ Senior Leadership must be briefed on guard requirements and changes to standing communications configuration.

Discussion

- ☐ RSN-USN Planning conference was held at Changi Naval Base on 27 January. RSN communications requirements were more extensive than previously briefed by CTF 73 (4 UHF/HF voice nets, 2 UHF/HF Link). RSN listed over 20 VHF/UHF/HF voice and data nets.
- ☐ Minimal attendance by JCSSG personnel hampered dissemination of information.

Additional Information

- ☐ RSN conducts all exercises in local time vice Zulu.
- ☐ Plain voice used due to non-compatible encryption devices on RSN ships. RSN expects to have new crypto gear by summer of 2012.
- ☐ RSN very pleased with level of participation of USN and communications excellence.



N6 LL Topics

- **VOSIP**
- **FMV: MC2 Video Scout, Rover, Hawklink, CDLS**
- **GBS: Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), Legacy web scrapes, Predator, TURBULENT WAVE, Split IP, TV broadcast**
- **JADOCs**
- **Airwing NMCI embarkables**
- **Airwing Tactical iPads**
- **Link redundancy and spares**
- **CTN skill set in the CSG**
- **IAVA's**
- **CENTRIXS peripherals**
- **IAWF training**
- **C7F SATCOM dead zone**
- **IP reliance**
- **COMPOSE software issues**
- **JCS ISNS**
- **SIPR REL for UK Pilot**
- **HBSS**
- **Intel Systems: DCGS-N, TSVOSIP, Gale Lite Proforma Feed**
- **JICO: GCCS/CV-TSC; install Tacview for ADC**
- **distance support, VRAM, Retina**
- **Goods: JADOCs, C5F support, VTC, CTF 50 CAS, CENTRIXS CAS, CENTRIXS ISAF, Hawklink, DCO, COOPEX, Comms Denied tabletop, Fighting Hurt drills, SHF Cross patch**